

3rd U. S. 'Cold War' Found Dead in Expert Washington



**BRIG. GEN.
FRANCIS G. BRINK**
*This Key Anti-Red Figure
Found Dead in Defense
Department Office*
—Associated Press wirephoto.



JOHN C. MONTGOMERY
*Hanging Was Fate of This
State Dept. Expert*
—Associated Press wirephoto.

VIAL AT SIDE OF SECRECY AGENCY AIDE

Called Suicide; Recalls Mystery
Deaths of 2 Other Officials

WASHINGTON, March 31. — Official Washington was rocked today by police disclosure that a third key figure involved in super secret work in the United States "cold war" against the Communists has been found dead in his home.

All three were apparent suicide victims, but mysterious, unexplained angles clouded each death.

The latest top-flight Government executive, with access to vital secret documents, to die in the last nine months was identified as James A. Kronthal, 41, who held key posts with the hush-hush Central Intelligence Agency.

CLOTHED — Kronthal's body, police said, was found stretched out on a bed in one of two second-floor bedrooms of the home in the fashionable Georgetown section of Washington. The body was fully clothed except for a coat. Police said that Kronthal had left a note indicating he had been despondent.

His death followed that of Brig. Gen. Francis G. Brink, 58, top figure in United States aid to embattled anti-Communists in Indo-China, who was found fatally shot in a Defense Department Pentagon office on June 24, 1952, and that of John C. Montgomery, 41, a State Department Finnish expert, who was found hanged last January 24.

A pistol lay by General Brink's side, and police said he apparently committed suicide. The gun was a small automatic of the type used by officers when they have secret documents to guard.

MISSION HEAD

The General was appointed in October, 1950, as chief of the American military mission to Indo-China where the French and native allies have conducted a long, bloody struggle against the Reds.

There was no apparent motive for the General's supposed suicide beyond the explanation that police were told he seemed depressed.

(OVER)

CPYRGHT

Police reported that Montgomery, who as chief of the State Department's Finnish desk, handled many secret documents, had hanged himself from the third-floor railing in his Georgetown home by a bathrobe sash and hempen cord. No motive ever was disclosed or developed for Montgomery's so-called suicide.

Montgomery had been in charge of Finnish affairs for a year at the time of his death. So baffling were several elements in Montgomery's motiveless suicide that demands were made in Congress for a State Department investigation and report.

CIA PROBE——

Spokesmen for Central Intelligence Agency, who said the CIA would hold a private investigation, declined to go into details about Kronthal's work at the super secret agency, a key organization in the nation's cold war efforts.

Kronthal's body was found about 10:30 a. m. today but it was nearly three hours later before homicide police would give out any details.

Police found an empty vial and a page-long handwritten note on a bedstand. The note, said Lt. Lawrence Harnett of the homicide squad, "indicated purely suicide." He would not disclose contents of the note.

VETERAN——

Kronthal, a bachelor and World War II veteran who served overseas with the CIA from 1947 until last May, held an administrative post with the agency here.

He had been attached to the American legation at Bern, Switzerland, during his overseas tour. Before that, he had risen from private to captain in the Army during World War II service that began in 1942.

Kronthal, a native of Deal, N. J., was graduated from Yale University in 1934 and later received a degree at Harvard University. He was an assistant instructor on the Harvard faculty before entering the Army.